Remarks

The Applicants have added new Claims 23 and 24. Those claims depend from Claims 1 and 2, respectively, and recite that the number average molecular weight of the unsaturated carboxylic acid-modified copolymer (C-i) is 26,000 to 60,000. This range is inherently supported by the broader range of 25,000 to 60,000 in independent Claims 1 and 2. The Applicants also note that the examples in the Applicants' specification contain unsaturated carboxylic acid-modified copolymers such as (C-3) that has a number average molecular weight of 26,000. Thus, there is direct support for the lower limit. Entry into the official file and examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Turning to the Examiner's helpful comments set forth in the July 14, 2008 Advisory Action, the Applicants provide the following comments.

The Advisory Action states that the number average molecular weight of 24,000 of unsaturated carboxylic acid-modified copolymer (C-i) in Nakajima is close to 25,000 of the number average molecular weight of unsaturated carboxylic acid-modified copolymer (C) of the Applicants' claims and, therefore, those claims are not patentable.

Nakajima discloses that the reduced viscosity of an unsaturated carboxylic acid-modified copolymer is in a range of 0.2 to 0.5 dl/g. This corresponds to a number average molecular weight in a range of up to 20,000. Therefore, the difference in the number average molecular weight between the Applicants' claims and Nakajima is quite substantial, i.e., "25,000" and "20,000." Thus, Nakajima actually teaches away from the Applicants' claimed number average molecular weight.

Nakajima includes a Comparative Example in which the reduced viscosity of an unsaturated carboxylic acid-modified copolymer (C-i) is 0.6 dl/g, corresponding to the number average molecular weight of 24,000. However, this unsaturated carboxylic acid-modified copolymer (C-i) is a Comparative Example and Nakajima states that this is not preferred. This teaches away from the Applicants' claimed number average molecular weight because that Comparative Example is shown to be deficient and those skilled in the art typically avoid doing what has been factually shown to be deficient.

In the Applicants' claims, the number average molecular weight of the unsaturated carboxylic acid-modified copolymer (C) is in a range of 25,000 to 60,000. In the Examples, the unsaturated carboxylic acid-modified copolymers (C-1), (C-2), (C-3) and (C-4) had number average molecular weights of 50,000; 44,000; 26,000; and 46,000, respectively. The unsaturated carboxylic acid-

modified copolymer (C-5) of Comparative Example had a number average molecular weight of 20,000, corresponding to a reduced viscosity of 0.5 dl/g.

Further, even assuming arguendo that a number average molecular weight of 24,000 of the number average molecular weight of the unsaturated carboxylic acid-modified copolymer (C) of a Comparative Example is close to the claimed 25,000, the effect obtained by the Applicants is not obtained.

The Applicants' claims call for the acetone-soluble moiety of the graft polymer (B) to have a number average molecular weight of 20,000 to 100,000, in addition to the number average molecular weight of the unsaturated carboxylic acid-modified copolymer (C) being 25,000 to 46,000 to attain an excellent chemical resistance while other characteristics such as impact resistance, flowability and panitability are maintained, as shown in Table 1 of the Examples.

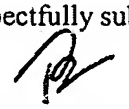
If the acetone-soluble moiety of the graft polymer (B) has a number average molecular weight of 20,000 to 100,000, but the number average molecular weight of the unsaturated carboxylic acid-modified copolymer (C) is not in a range of 25,000 to 46,000, the above effects are not obtained as shown in Comparative Example 2.

Thus, the Applicants have attained excellent characteristics of a thermoplastic resin composition, particularly an excellent chemical resistance, by the thermoplastic resin composition comprising the specific graft polymer (B) and the specific unsaturated carboxylic acid-modified copolymer (C).

The constitution and the effect are different between the Applicants' claimed subject matter and Nakajima and the Applicants' claims are novel and not obvious over Nakajima. Withdrawal of the §§102 and 103 rejections over Nakajima is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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